



A N
E P I S T L E
F R O M
Obadiah Meanwell,
T O
R O B E R T M E E K .



THE
JOURNAL
OF
ROBERT
MURPHY
1850

A N
E P I S T L E

FROM

Obadiab Meanwell,

One of the People called *Quakers*,

Dwelling at *Wycomb* in *Buckinghamshire*,

TO

ROBERT MEEK,

Whose Habitation is in *London*.

In which Epistle the Conduct of a GREAT MAN is friendly examined, and *seemingly* justified, from the *Revilings*, *Slanders*, and *Backbitings*, which the *Envious-minded* have raised against him.

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and Writing Utensils at *London*, 1742.

LIST

FROM

OLIVER

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF

TO

ROBERT MERRILL

Whose Mission is in London

In which the Office of a
Man is highly esteemed, and
in which the Office of a
Bookkeeper, with the
title of a

For sale at the

By T. George, Editor of
Went, at a Board on which is
Toward a Glass in New York
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and other Goods in London



A N
E P I S T L E
F R O M
OBADIAH MEANWELL, &c.

Friend *Robert,*



THE late Clamour which hath been raised against the *High Steward* of this Kingdom, no doubt but thou hast heard; and the many Bickerings, and Revilings, and reproachful Language which hath been poured forth from the Mouths of the Unsanctify'd. But surely these Sort of People

are unacquainted with that *meek* and *peaceable* Spirit that hath been so predominant in ALL the Doings of our *good Friend*; even from the Beginnings of his Management of our Affairs to this Hour. I will therefore endeavour, in this Epistle to thee, to remind thee of some *remarkable Circumstances* in his Conduct, which will stop the Mouths of Gain-sayers, and put to silence the *Evil-doers*.

I believe thou hast not forgot the Time, when one of our *haughty Neighbours* attempted to take from us by Power, what by TREATIES they had agreed we should peaceably enjoy. Then, I say, it was thought expedient not only to make some Resistance on the Premises thereof, but also to make a Show of our Power, and Resentment, in another Place, and after another Manner. And indeed there was great Likelihood of Bloodshed on both Sides; but our good Friend ROBERT (thy *Namesake*) considering how unchristian-like it would be, to let so many innocent People destroy one another, did so order that Affair, that they returned home again without doing any Mischief; though it hath been reported, by some evil-minded People, that the Head-servant entrusted in
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that Business, having been used to Bloodshed and Slaughter, and his Mind being wholly taken up with the *perishable* Things of this World, was so disgusted at the great Disappointment, that in Excess of Grief he gave up the *Ghost* before he could reach his Wife and Family, to settle his Affairs.

And here I think it will not be improper to note unto thee, that notwithstanding this Business ended in Peace and Quietness, yet some of the worldly-minded belonging to the great Assembly of the Nation, were very much dissatisfied therewith, and sought Means to revile such peaceable Proceedings, and evilly endeavoured to bring our *good Friend* into Disgrace; - - - but thou knowest, the *Holy Scripture* hath said, that *the Designs of the Wicked shall not prosper*. Therefore to prevent their Revilings and Complaints from being regarded, he returned *Good for Evil*; and did, out of his great good Nature, advance many of the *Horns* of his fellow Servants to Places of great Honour and PROFIT; and some of a *turbulent* and *disquiet* Spirit he put forth from his Presence; and even all this Kindness was done unto them, that they should only say *Yea*, or *Nay*, when he required it of them; so meek were his Requests! and
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by this Means he stopped the Mouths of the *Reproachful*.

And indeed, Friend, thou knowest that *these* Men have done great Service unto him, and have prevented the Accusation of the Wicked from taking Effect: More especially *twice* this Season, have they combined together to take from him his Office, and to tumble him down; but *these* have been *his* Support, and have put aside the evil Machinations of the Seditious; and with such Meekness of Spirit, that when they smote him on one Cheek, he turned the other also; and it is said, he not only gave his FRIENDS A Coat, when they requested it, but A Cloak also, for their good Services.

And as his *great good Nature* has appeared to his *Friends*, I intend, in my following Discourse, to shew thee how bountiful he hath been in his *good Nature* even to his Enemies, and *that* thou knowest is the Duty of every true Christian.

Thou canst not be insensible, that HE hath been our *Bargain-maker* for several Years, and hath been intrusted with all our Affairs relating to *Quarrels*, or *mutual Contracts*

tracts with our Neighbours, in which his Conduct has been remarkably GOOD NATURED. For amongst all his Bargains and Dealings during his whole *faithful* and unwearied Services, I could never hear (nor I believe *thee* neither) that he EVER took ONE Advantage of the IGNORANCE of those with whom he dealt; but was always so good-natur'd as to let THEM have the turning of the Scale; or, as People say, to have hold of the BEST End of the Staff: Nay, I believe I should not wrong him, if I should say he hath been good-natured even to a Fault; - - for thou knowest how kind he was, to one of our Neighbours some Years ago, in making a Bargain, where he entirely gave up the Interest of another, when it was his Business to have defended that Property, even with that Force which he made Use of to give it away; and that has been, and is likely to continue, a THORN in our Feet. And yet I dare say this was only an OVERSIGHT; for it is far from his Nature to do an ill Thing knowingly.

There is another *good-natured* Deed of HIS, that happened at *Home*, not a great while since, wherein his great Care of our Health is very conspicuous; especially the

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Healths

Healths of such who lov'd to indulge their sensual Appetites in drinking strong Liquors and Wine; and thou knowest, Friend *Robert*, that if the Dealers in that *Commodity* be not guided by the Spirit of *Truth*, they may adulterate it, in such a manner, that it may prove *baneful* to the Health of those who drink thereof. This our GOOD FRIEND knew as well as thee and I, or any one else; therefore he would fain have made such a Law, which should authorize a certain Number of USEFUL Men to watch their *Evil-doings*, whose POWER was to have been very great, and which was to authorize them to enter any of THEIR Houses, at all times in the *Night*, as well as the Day; and if they found, or suspected any Fraud, they would have made them pay severely for it. This was one GREAT *good-natured* Design to preserve our *Health*; and there was also another Benefit which he intended for us, which would arise from their Watchings (which perhaps thou little thinkest of) and that is, as they would come at any Hour of the Night, they might perchance have discovered some *Thief* breaking into the House, or lurking *Reveller* seeking to defile the Bed of the good Man, or to take Advantage of stealing away his DAUGHTER, or to give
warn-

warning of some untimely Fire, which, if not *discovered*, might lay waste a whole Neighbourhood ; or a thousand other BENEFITS, which no doubt he proposed for our GOOD.

But notwithstanding all these good Intentions, the Worldly - minded combined together, being unwilling to part with their *unjust Gain*, and they over-powered our *good Friend's* Design.

But GOOD as this was in the Intent, and as GOOD as he is in HIMSELF, yet the *Evil-minded* do not scruple to say, that he hath never loved those Sort of People with that cordial Affection that one CHRISTIAN ought to have for another ; and to confess a Truth, Friend *Robert*, I believe they have Reason on their Side to be sensible of it.

Though I shall not take notice of the *Particulars* relating to a Quarrel with one of our PROUD Neighbours, yet I cannot help reminding thee of the ill Usage some of our trading People received from THEIRS, which was very unchristian-like ; for thou knowest, to be bound with Chains and cast into a Dungeon, and *there* to be fed with worse Food than the Prodigal in

the Gospel, is SUCH USAGE, that thee, or I should be unable to bear; - but to have the Head dismember'd of the Ears (which I hear was the Case of one of our worthy Subjects) was Occasion enough for the *un-sanctified Multitude* to call aloud for Vengeance to be taken for all our Abuses which we had received from them.

Now thou knowest also, that it is written in the old Law, *an Eye for an Eye, and a Tooth for a Tooth*, but not *one* word of an EAR FOR AN EAR; this our *good Friend* knew as well as thee and I, therefore was very unwilling to take Vengeance on his Neighbour, very well knowing to whom that belongeth. Now I am of the Mind (and I believe thou art) that the old Law is not so much to be regarded as it was of *old Time*; for we read in the NEW, that we should *love our Enemies, and do good to them that despitefully use us*; and likewise, that if our Enemy, as I before observed to thee, should smite us on one Cheek, we should turn to him the other also. This, I say, is the Duty of every right CHRISTIAN; and this, I dare say, none will be so bold to assert, that our *good Friend* ever departed from it.

Now

Now if thou wilt look back a little into thy own Mind, thou wilt find how *unwilling* he was, to unsheath the *De-structive* Sword; well knowing that it is written, *He that smiteth with the Sword, shall perish thereby*; and thou knowest also what great Pains he hath taken to prevent the shedding of *Christian* Blood, and how good-natured he hath been to our *Enemies*, and all for the Sake of Peace and Quietness. For notwithstanding all the Great Expence we were at to make the Bargain, and all the Losses our Trading People suffered by the Daily Encroachments of our *Enemies*: Yet I say, notwithstanding all this, in his *great Good-nature* he over-looked these Things; and for the Promise of a trifling Sum, which they bargain'd to pay to our Nation, *relinquish'd* all other Claims for *Quietness* Sake.

But alas! what a Pity it was, that such *Good-nature* should be insulted! *But so it was*; for they being puffed up with the hidden Treasure of this World, and putting too great a Trust in their own Strength and our long Forbearance, did fall from their Word, and refused the Fulfilling thereof. And *then* it was, that
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all our *Good Friend's* Endeavours, were borne away by the Torrent of the Disaffected to Peace and Quietness; and our *Good Friend* (though unwilling) was forced to comply with the Clamorous Tumult, and to a *Declaration of War*; which thou knowest must be great Grief to a peaceable Mind.

War thus declar'd, and all former Bargains set aside; the next Thing our *Good Friend* had to do, was to choose out *Proper Persons* to carry it on. This was no difficult Task, considering how many *brave Men* he had at his Service; but amongst the many that were empowered to do mischief was one, whose turbulent Spirit would abrook no Controul, and vaunted himself what he could do with a few of our *useless Ships of War*, if he was made Ruler thereof. Therefore to humour his Ambition, and to appease the Clamour of some that were of his Party, his Request was comply'd with; all things were put in a readiness, and he departed to the great *Western Ocean*, the Place appointed for the War to break forth.

And indeed *this Man*, boisterous as he seemed, proved no Swaggerer; for he fulfilled his Promise, and battered down one
of

of their strong Holds, and took Possession thereof. Puffed up with the Success of this Action, he thought himself capable to undertake to destroy another Place which was much stronger, if he could be furnish'd with Necessaries for such an Enterprize. He acquainted our *Good-Friend* with his Intentions; and *he* wisely considering the Nature of the Undertaking, and what Forces were necessary for such a Design, did out of his *great Wisdom* keep the Forces at home, that knew how to fight on the Land (of which thou knowest he hath good Store) and more prudently was at the Expence of raising new ones, such as the *Nation* could spare without any Loss of them, and put them all upon a new Foundation. This sorely displeased most of the Worldly-minded of the People: But suppose it did, what was all that to the *Good* he did, in bestowing so many Places of *Honour* and *Profit* amongst his *Friends* and Acquaintance that were to serve him on some other Occasions?

These Men thus called together, our *Wise Friend* detained here some time, to have them taught the *Discipline* necessary to be learnt by the Traders in War; but as they and their LEADERS were not so expert in
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it as those who had been long Practitioners in that Employment, when they were arrived at their intended Place, and came to perform the Part they were designed for : their HEAD LEADER, ordered them to advance instead of retreat, so that they were furrounded on all Sides, and had no way left to come back, but through the destructive Machinations which their Enemies had prepared, which so annoy'd them, that *they* thought it their best Way, who had escaped with their Lives, (which thee must know were very few) to move off, and leave the Enemy in *quiet* Possession. Though it cannot be deny'd, but that our boisterous Leader, (whom I mentioned before) perform'd his Part with Wonder ; for *he* had tumbled down most of their Outworks, before the Leader of the Forces who were to act on the Land had begun the Attack.

This Affair miscarrying, it raised, *thee knowest*, a grievous Clamour and Tumult in the *Unchristian Part* of the Nation, against our GOOD FRIEND, for not sending Men of better Experience to manage the Affairs of the War in so Critical a Juncture. But the Reasons our *Good Friend*

Friend had for not so doing, I shall endeavour to shew thee were very *Important* and *Judicious*.

I will not pretend to deny, but that our SEA-COAST at that Time was well guarded, and that we had a great many *Vessels* of *War* within Call, and therefore could be in no *real Danger* of any NEIGHBOURING Power; or *declared Enemy* giving us any Disturbance that way. But what of that; was there no Power but our NEIGHBOURS to fear? I believe thou wilt find it otherwise; for I must tell thee, *Friend Robert*, that the MOON is a *World* like ours, and containeth many Inhabitants; and if so, why may we not *as well* expect a *Descent* from them? And if that should happen, all our *Forces* might be too few to resist them; for who *knoweth* at what Place they may attack us, or can so much as guess at their Numbers? All this, *thee may'st be sure*, was well known to our *good Friend*; and therefore it must be acknowledged that he acted with a great deal of Prudence, in keeping all our *best Forces* at home, and sending the worthless Ones to be knocked on the Head.

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Having done with *THIS* Affair, I shall remark to thee something of our warlike Doings nearer home, which happened about *that* Time; and in this too thou wilt find our *good Friend* hath acted with the same *Caution* and *Prudence*, as he hath in all other Places wherein he hath directed Affairs. I say, with the *same Wisdom*: For, when our Enemies perceived the great Strength we had on the *watry Element*, they soon began to *repair* their old Vessels of War, and to erect *new* Ones. This was soon known to our *good Friend*, who dispatched an old *Trusty* Servant to watch their Motions; whose Instructions, I SUPPOSE, were, to loiter about the Place where these great Preparations were getting ready. And many a Day of Watchfulness, and many a Night of unwearied Diligence in his Post did he there reside. But just as they were all ready to come forth, lo! a FOG arose, and the ENEMY launched forth under the Covert thereof, and went into the *Great Ocean*, and were no where to be found at that Time. And though the same unhappy Accident hath happened unto us *Twice since*, and those Affairs seem wonderful to many, whose Minds are Clouded with the Things of this World, yet do I think them EASILY accounted

accounted for; and also to acquit our GOOD FRIEND of some *Aspersions* which *Malicious Persons* have laid to his Charge in THAT Affair.

I observed to thee before, that this *Commander* of our Warring Vessels was an old TRUSTY SERVANT; therefore I think it would be unjust to suspect His Fidelity, and on the other Hand it would be very hard to suspect our GOOD FRIEND; Therefore I shall endeavour to clear them BOTH, by letting thee know how it is possible this Affair might otherwise fall out.

Thou may'st have read or heard of a wicked Sort of People, that inhabit the NORTHERN Part of the World, who by a *Magick Art* can raise the Wind, and when they have so done, can confine it in certain Quantities, and SELL the same to any one that will pay for it: Now thou knowest that our *Enemies* are a wicked unchristian Sort of People, and not being guided by the *True Spirit* of the Gospel, may, peradventure, have been dealing with these wicked Sorcerers, and have purchas'd a Couple of Storms, on purpose to blow away our Watch-Vessels, just at the Time

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they

they wanted to come forth ; and perhaps, they might buy a *Fog* or two of them. And doubtless this was the Case : *Unless* our VERY GOOD FRIEND, considering what a dreadful Slaughter would have ensued, if they should have met together, did, out of his great *Good-nature* to Humankind, so *order* his FAITHFUL Servant in that Affair, that they should never meet.

But this I say, Friend *Robert*, is only a Conjecture of my own, and peradventure will gain little or no Credit with thee ; yet I say, if thou dost consider the great Pains our GOOD FRIEND hath taken all along to preserve the Lives of our good Subjects, thou wilt then think that what I have conjectured is not impossible.

And here I cannot but in Fullness of Joy express my great Friendship for this GOOD *Compassionate Man* ; it is not only his Care and Duty to preserve our Fellow Subjects Lives, but even likewise his Tender-heartedness hath been extended to our VESSELS OF WAR, for they have been preserved from the Balls and Fire of the Enemy, for he only let a few of our Trading Vessels be taken, *here and there*, by *them*
Thou

Thou knowest with what *Care* and *Caution* our *two last* secret Expeditions were managed, and how DESPERATELY they were armed, and how terrible they must appear to our Enemies; yet for all our looking so big, they behaved in a very peaceable Manner, and returned home again all very safe and sound. Now, Friend *Robert*, if thou considerest the Advantage we have, in the Care which our GOOD FRIEND hath taken in preserving these Vessels of War, and the Furniture thereof, thou must suppose, the *Discontented* of this Nation have the greatest Reason to respect him for it; and though they have taken Occasion to blame his Conduct, in sending *Undisciplin'd* Forces to the *Western Ocean*, and this Pacifick Use of our Navies: Yet they have the greatest Reason to forgive him, if it has been (by the worst they can suppose it) and that is, an OVERSIGHT.

Consider, Friend *Robert*, how much one of our WarVessels costs when fully mann'd and fill'd with Furniture &c. fit for use; and what a Pity it would be, after all our *Great Charge* and Pains, they should be carelessly run amongst the Enemy, and there be shot at, and battered to Pieces,
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and their *Rigging* *destroy'd*, and the Men slain : I say, Friend *Robert*, all this is very terrible for thee and I to think on.

But I think I can see a farther Design of our VERY GOOD FRIEND, in taking such an *over and above* care of all our Instruments of War : For ASOON as he hath restored *Peace* and *Quietness* to this Kingdom, which some People apprehend is not afar off ; then, I say, when all our Vessels of War are safe at Home, and are unloaded of all their Naval Stores, and *Instruments of Destruction*, it will be a *Terrible Sight* to behold, to those that are peaceable-minded ; that is, such as thee and I. And if they should be stored up in the same *Places* and *Manner* as usually they are, they will then appear more horrible than before they were carried away from thence : And if they should pile up all those *Iron Balls*, which our GOOD FRIEND hath been so careful in Preserving, in one GREAT Pyramid, they would make one of a very large Dimension ; for aught I know, as wonderful as one of THOSE which the Children of *Israel* erected, which was esteemed One of the Wonders of the Eastern Countries. Now I say, if thou considerest *all this*, and that the

the Place where it is to be erected will be near our Great River ; therefore all Vessels passing and repassing from divers Nations, with Traffick to this great City, must behold it ; and do'st thou think any Foreigner can behold so *Huge* a Pile of *Deathful* Instruments, without Fear and Trembling ? No, *my Friend*, all this may come to pass ; and if it should, how will our *Fame* go forth, and the *Sound* thereof will reach all the Corners of the Earth ! and all our Neighbours will *then* stand in great awe of us, and none for the Future will dare to offend us.

I think it will be needless to say any more, relating to that which our GOOD FRIEND hath done for us ; for what I have said already, is, I believe, sufficient to convince all *his Enemies*, of the Great Care he hath taken to preserve those under his Protection ; and that he hath taken a deal of Pains, to form such Schemes as have been thought by *some People* for our Good. But alas ! my Friend, *who is perfect* ? If they should seem otherwise at present, to the Gain-sayers and Workers of Darkness, and reproachful Men, who seem wise in their own Eyes : Yet I say, my

my Friend, thou knowest that the *Wisdom* of this World is but Foolishness with GOD, and that he often chuseth the SIMPLE THINGS thereof to confound the Wise, and shew us the Frailty of our Nature; and that we should not put too great a Confidence in our own *Carnal Wisdom*, which *Providence* very often bringeth to nought.

This, I say, must be the Case of our *Good-Friend*, whom PROVIDENCE (*which cannot err*) hath chosen for our Good. And I must confess, though all his WELL-CONTRIVED Schemes, his *Foresight* and deep *Penetration*, have not altogether (*to outward Appearance*) answered our Expectation, yet thou seest our *Good Friend* hath done his best. He hath *Sacrificed* his WEALTH, his HONOUR, and even risqu'd his Life for our Sake; and yet, the Discontented will not be convinced that He hath done it for our Good. He who wanteth nothing in himself of the Goods of this Life, must consequently TOIL for others, if THEY do the Drudgeries our *Good Friend* has done for Us; and that he hath aimed at all Things for our Good alone, I think I have demonstrated sufficiently to thee in the preceding Part of this

this Epistle : We ought therefore to wait with Patience the Event.

I can't help taking notice, *in this place*, of a Set of Men who call themselves PATRIOTS; they are a *busy, babbling, talkative* sort of People, and seem very fond of Contradiction; they have not only contradicted our *good Friend* in most of his *publick* Speeches, but likewise have seemed to predict the Event of most of his Schemes, as exact as if they had been endowed with the Spirit of Prophecy: And one of them in particular publicly told him, the Event of a certain Expedition long before it was put in Execution; and all the rest in their Turn, have foretold strange Things which seem likely to come to pass.

Now thou knowest, Friend *Robert*, that the Spirit of Prophecy hath been taken from amongst Men for many Generations; and thou knowest likewise, that our *good Friend*, is a Man of DEEP Penetration, and can see as far into the Event of Things as *human Reason* can guide him: Therefore it *must follow*, that these Men come by their Knowledge by a *wrong Spirit*; and that their Wisdom is not from above, and peradventure it is procur'd by some *diabolical*

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Method

Method; for there is one amongst those whom I have mention'd, whose Country has been always remarkable for *Witchcraft* and *diabolical* Practices. . (Not that I have aught to say against this Man in particular, as to other Respects; for he is a Man of great Might, and hath been an old Servant to the Nation, and hath stood in the Gap when our Enemies have been attempting to break down our Fences, and hath done a great many *good* Things which I dare say will be remembered by Posterity.) Therefore I say, that as all *these Men* associate themselves together, it is not unlikely that they may hold a Correspondence with some of those *North-Country Witches*, or peradventure have learn'd that wicked Art, for thou knowest they are daily going on in their *Predictions*.

And if this be the Case, my Friend, thou knowest the Laws of the Land are, or have been against such evil Practices, and that in *former* Days there were a great many *hang'd* and *burnt* for the same. Now as thou art an Inhabitant of the great Town, and livest not far off from that ancient Place where all those great Men usually meet, to consult about the Affairs of the Nation, I would desire thee, Friend *Robert*, dili-

diligently to enquire how Matters are like to go with our *old Friend*. Do thou go to him, *I pray thee*, and give him this Advice, that if he should be hard put to it, that he forthwith bring in a Bill of Indictment against all those *wicked Predictors*, and try them for WIZARDS, and Dealers with *Satan*; and by that Means he will have a Chance of having them *hang'd or burnt* out of his way. And thou well knowest, our *good Friend* can manage a BILL; and should sufficient Evidence be wanting, he hath WEALTH enough to subvert some of that *Nation*, to give Testimony against them; and indeed they ought to say *any thing* for the Interest of so good a Master.

And now, my Friend *Robert*, after all these Observations on our Friend's *good Conduct*, I think thee must plainly see his great Care and Frugality in managing the Revenues of this Nation, which are committed to his Charge. I say, as this is a Truth, he must have a great and mighty Hoard of Treasure somewhere or other; for I have heard it reported, that his *Brother* hath immense Wealth, and *his Sons*, and all his Kindred, and they are only as *Servants* who *minister* unto him. And thou knowest there hath been GREAT Gatherings

from the People for many Years; and as he hath been always saving and frugal, I say, from all this he must have a huge deal of Wealth, if he hath not squandered it away in idle Fancies, or sent it into *foreign Countries* (which some People are apt to suspect.) Now, as thee knowest, that our *good Friend* is well stricken in Years, and that the Dissolution of his earthly Tabernacle approacheth apace, it is reasonable to think his End cannot be a great way off. This Consideration, if rightly apply'd, would put him in mind to settle his worldly Affairs: But as he is daily surrounded with the glittering *Gewgaws* of this vain World, it is not unlikely but he may put off *THAT* Account until he cometh to a sick Bed.

If this so happen, I would have thee solicit some Man in Power to see him. If thee canst get Admittance, let me advise thee, my Friend, to be a Messenger of Truth and a Balm of Comfort in his departing Moments. Put him in mind, that as he is *going* to the Place from whence *he came*, that he *should* be so *honest* and good-natured, to all the poor People of this Nation, as to let *his great Hoard of Treasure* do so *LIKEWISE*. Should he *do* it, my Friend, it would rejoice the Hearts of Thousands,
and

and be a great Help to this impoverish'd Nation. I do not know but the Produce of it would reduce the *Earth-Tax* this Year to *two Shillings* in the Pound; which at present is very heavy upon the People of this Land.

Such an Action as this would be so *Just* and *Reasonable*, that it would surpass all his former Acts of *Good-nature*, which thou knowest have been many; it would in some Measure stop the Mouths of the *Unsanctified* from reviling his Goodness; and it would be enrolled in the Records of Fame, amongst the Actions of the good Men of Old, whose Names fade not, nor will ever die.

Many Things more might be mentioned, and much might be said in our *Good Friend's* Behalf, relating to his Conduct since he hath been *Steward*, to shew how they have all been Conducted by the same *Peaceable* and *Wise* Spirit; but I fear I have already trespassed upon thy Patience, as well as I have exceeded the Limits of an Epistle.

Our Friends *here* are all well, and stand fast to the Truth, excepting our Friend AMINADAB, who is greatly fallen there-
from,

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from and delighteth himself in little else,
but the lying Vanities of this *Wicked*
World. But this I believe can be no great
News to thee, for thou knowest he hath
been wavering some Years; but I hope
the LORD will call him back to the *Know-*
ledge of His Truth. — Farewel. I am

Thy Friend and Well-wisher,

Obadiab Meanwell.

*From my Dwelling-house at Wycomb,
the 22d Day of the Month called
January, from the Year of our
Redemption, 1742*

Am

An After-Thought.

Friend *Robert*,

IT having been known unto me, that many *lying Papers* and Writings are daily set to Sale, by *evil-minded Men*, which contain *false Slanders*, and *malicious Reports*, and *Insinuations* against our *good Friend's* Conduct: Especially a new Piece of *lying Vanity*, called, **FATAL NECESSITY**; or, **LIBERTY** *regain'd*; which hath already reach'd to this Place: I think it proper to advertise thee, Friend *Robert*, that thee mayest use thy Discretion as to this Epistle. If thee thinkest it will be a sufficient Answer to the *Bickerings*, and *Revilings*, and *vain Papers*, which the Envious have raised against our *good Friend*, and that it will put to Silence the *evil Machinations*, and Reports of the *Wicked*, thee mayest have it put forth to Sale with *theirs*; that the Workers of Iniquity may be confounded in their Devices, and that **THIS** may be as a **LAMP** to their *Understanding*, to guide them in the way of **TRUTH**.

Once more, Farewel,

The After-Thought

Thou art

I having been known unto me, and
 many years past, and writings are
 daily set to sale, by various hands,
 which contain the same, and which
 are, I think, and I am sure, of great
 use to the world: especially a new
 piece of poetry, called "The
 Necropolis," or "The Graveyard,"
 which hath already reached to the
 I think it proper to advertise, that I
 do not, that I do myself, and I do
 think as to this piece. It does think
 it will be a further Answer to the
 world, and America, and other
 which the English have not yet
 our great loss, and that it will be
 the most useful, and the most
 of the world, and the most
 I think it will be, and I think
 a great loss, and I think
 that I think it will be, and I think
 a great loss, and I think
 that I think it will be, and I think

O. W. W.